NUMBER 25

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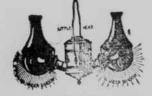
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Talmage Sermon

Frank De Witt Talmage, D. D.

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 17.-This is a unique study of the life and character of Joseph the carpenter, in whose example the preacher finds a lesson of inspiration for all husbands and parents. The text is Matthew I, 16, "Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was been

Amazing it is to read the reviews of the latest books of our prominent novelists. It seems as though we are perusing the columns of a homiletic review or are reading the resume of the sermons of ministers written in a religious weekly instead of a summary of the imaginative works of our secular writers. The novelist's fad of finding his heroes and heroines among the castled walls of chivalric times has to a great extent passed away. Our modern Bulwers are not searching among the smoke and the tottering walls of a licentious Pompell to seek out their blinded Lydias. Our Charles Kingsleys are not roaming about the edge of a Sahara to find the footprints of a beautiful heathen cellbate, Hypatia by name. Our brilliant Sir Walter Scotts are not turning the ruins of a Kenliworth castle into a gorgeous banquet hall where the rival earls of a mighty kingdom are rising side by side to drink the health of a virgin queen. But a large percentage of our modern novelists are finding the scenic settings for their most powerful chapters among the Judaean hills or by the placid waters of lake Galilee or down among the vine clad valleys of a Samaritan capi-

Yes, the Biblical historical novel is to be reckoned with as among the most interesting and popular of all modern novels. While thinking along this line a catalogue of one of our public libraries was placed in my hand. As I turned the pages I read the following names of some of the great books of fiction: There were Joseph Ingraham's "The Prince of the House of David" and his "Pillar of Fire, or Israel In Bondage;" there were Georg Ebers' "Joshua" and Florence Kingsley's "Titus, a Comrade of the Cross;" there was Marie Corelli's "Barabbas," besides a score of other names suggestive of Biblical lore, while Edward Everett Caine's "Christian," and Lew Wallace's

time?

acters of the Old and New Testaments have been made to come forth out of old Jacob or Joseph of Aramathea, but of Joseph of Nazareth, Joseph of Bethlehem, Joseph the carpenter, Joseph who was the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born.

Now, as the annual Christmas holidays are but a few days off I thought I would preach a sermon about Joseph there, and why the wise men were there, and why the sheep and the cattle and the horses were there. Today I want to tell you why Joseph was there. And of all the characters of the Bible | Christ during the days of his helpless there is not one which appeals to me in a more vivid way than does this Erawny, rugged, stout limbed mechanie, who passed so much of his time

among the Zebulon hills. to be born in Bethlehem of Judaea. He had to be washed and dressed and fed. Stepped right up to her side. He put to spend all your time watching Mary, stepped right up to her side. He put to spend all your time watching Mary, stepped right up to her side. He put to spend all your time watching Mary, stepped right up to her side. He put to spend all your time watching Mary, stepped right up to her side. He put to spend all your time watching Mary, stepped right up to her side. Joseph came to the manger, in the first place, to make it possible for Jesus He came to the manger because toward physically and mentally, like any other thee. I shall give thee the protection horses, or the wise men. I want you, I have a self-the sages of the James long to the large and the sages of the James long to the large and the sages of the James long to the large and the sages of the James long to the large and the large large and the large l Judaea all the sages of the Jerusalem baby boy. Now, as Christ's boyhood of my name." Then he turned and at least for a little while, to watch the Son of God to be born. He came to the manger, for if he had not come Mary the Virgin would never have gone there to give birth to her child, and the wise men of the east would never have been able to find there the infant Christ. This being born in Bethlehem was abearthly father." And Joseph, in obedisolutely essential for the fulfillment of

The Stamp of Divinity. There were two ways by which the stamp of divinity was to be placed up-on Christ's life. The first was by his miracles. What do I mean by that? Simply this: When the people began to crowd around Jesus, and he said, "I am the Son of God; follow me," the people answered, "How do we know thou art the Christ?" He said, "I will show you; come and see." Then he stooped down and made the crooked limbs straight. Then he expectorated upon the ground and made a salve out of the spittle and dirt and rubbed it upon the blind eyes, and they were opened. Then he stopped by the bier say ento thee, arise!" Then he turned to the people and practically said: "Could any being, unless he was the

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on account of the wonders that I perform." Then when the people again said, "By what right dost thou claim to be the promised Messiah?" he could answer, "Because I fulfill in my person the predictions of your own prophets, and at the very beginning was that utterance of Micah the prophet, who wrote over seven centuries ago, 'But thou Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be a ruler in Israel, whose goings forth have been of old, from everlasting.' Did not the prophet foresee my birth? Was I not miraculously born, according to the prediction?" Jesus would not have been able to give this convincing answer if Joseph had not been the man he

By a decree of Rome in reference to

mand from you obedience to my will

mades? I de-

could collect from his provinces; thereswer to that enrollment. But, though cause he had no one with whom to ger on the first Christmas morn? leave his wife is the reason he took her along. Thus we find that this important fact, fulfilling the ancient

Why Joseph Went to Bethlehem, But your words and your acts are go- Christ. words of a cowardly peasant guide at man. He was one of those men whom their graves and live and breathe as in Waterloo that sent Napoleon a life ex- women have hard work to influence. times of yore, there is one Bible char- ile to St. Helena. When the battle He was evidently an elderly man, acter who has never, so far as I know, raged the fiercest the little Corsican probably fifty years of age, but he turned to the peasant who was tied to was one who when he did surrender stimulated you to deeds of nobleness been made the nero of a historical novel the saddle of his horse and said, "Is his heart to a woman gave to her his while he was yet with you. Let its S. J. MATHIAS

elist's tale. Indeed, there is one Bible character that has never, so far as I know, been made the subject of a sermon. The ministers seem to ignore mon. The ministers are mon. The do the historical novelists. I allude here to the character of Joseph. I do not mean Joseph who was the son of mean Joseph who was the son of mean Joseph who was the son of the lanks and the lanks are fately relieved by the sacrifice. He layed her so much here to the character of Joseph. I do not mean Joseph who was the son of the lanks are fately relieved by the sacrifice. He layed her so much here to the sacrifice. He layed her so much here to the sacrifice. He layed her so much here to the sacrifice are layed to a truly good, noble, beautiful woman. He loved her with a love one for Mary to learn. It is, in all probability, a difficult one for you to that would willingly lay down his life lanks who was the son of the layer of the sacrifice. He layed her so much ranks he led them on a fatal gallop into the ravine of Ohain, where they destroyed the French army at Water- for eternity. loo. Is it possible that you by light become a false guide to some seeking soul? Be careful and strive rather to be like Leach faithful and strive rather to be larger to be like leach faithful and strive rather to be larger t words or by your inconsistent life may be, like Joseph, faithful to the call of upon her as a bad woman. In the believe me, if my interpretation of this mons you have heard why Mary was there, and why the shepherds were divine direction, traveled to Bethlehem and so made it possible for Jesus | much troubled. The Bible tells us that | and the redemption of your dear ones to be born in the city of his ancestors, he was about to break the bonds of the you will yet find that God's ways are according to the word of the prophet.

humble carpenter and says: "Joseph, ence to this command, went and stood between Jesus and physical and mental want. That is another reason why

we find Joseph at the manger. the way for Christ's advent, Joseph, the that God has work for his great men to do. I am glad that he has one place for a Moses, and another place for a

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are also essential places. I am glad he has his places for his Marys, and his Marihas, and his Elizabeths, and his poor widows of Zarephath, and his mochs, and his Josephs of Nazareth, and his Cushis, as well as for his Joabs, and Abishais, and Ittais, and Davids. Ah, yes, the work of Joseph the carpenter caring for the helpless Christ there came a time when Joseph could during his years of infancy should teach us all to honor God in our own work in life, no matter how insignificant it may be. Canst thou not seize the inspiration of this lesson for the coming Christmas

the levying of taxes Caesar Augustus wanted to know how much money he seph belonged to any other family than that of David. Why? Under the Ro-Christ was dependent upon Joseph. Christ by the forced toil and strugman law a woman, unless she was a Would that I might lead some one to with the struggles of young men and property holder, did not have to an- Christ and then carefully protect him young women. There must have been swer the call of the census. Mary was and help him during his years of temp- many a weary hour in that carpenter no property holder. Mary in her crit-ical state of health would naturally during his years of childhood helpless-struggled on to fight the wolf of cold have stayed at home, but Joseph had ness." Do you wonder that Joseph had and of hunger from the door. There to go because he was a man. And be- a right to be standing near to the man-

A Noble and Manly Character. The ennobling example of a pune prophecy, which would be so vital to a journey to the Bethlehem manger. The tired arm was no longer able to direct Jew, was brought about by the tender- gentle love which bound your father the hammer aright and instead of strikness of Joseph, the husband of Mary. and mother together and molded you ing the iron nail it crashed into the On such small matters do great events and your brothers and sisters in a bruised flesh. Christ as the man symhang. Is it not an impressive thought moral and spiritual way was the same pathizes with the hungry, because that God plans all the events of our kind of gentle love that bound Joseph Christ as the boy perhaps often went lives, as we see in the arrangement of to Mary and helped to mold the mental faint to bed that his brothers and sisthe circumstances that brought Jo- life of the infant Christ, for, though ters might have enough to eat. The seph and Mary to Bethlehem at this Joseph the carpenter was not the fa- ties which bound Mary the mother to vid, was the cause of the Bethlehem more as Jesus grew to years of discremust have stood by the husband's Shehlon's "In His Steps," and Hall birth of Jesus Christ. You in the same the his high would his love for his mother way may be an essential factor for the divine birth of some immortal soul. You may say you are a humble man, ed her. Nothing more manly is found nurtured and cared for during his years when zesus was Here Among Men, as was Joseph. You may say you ocall deal directly or indirectly with original deal directly or indirectly with original was Joseph. You may say you ocall deal directly or indirectly with original was Joseph. You may say you ocall deal directly or indirectly with original was Joseph. You may say you ocall deal directly or indirectly with original was Joseph. You may say you ocall deal directly or indirectly with original was Joseph. You may say you ocall deal directly or indirectly with original was Joseph. You may say you ocall deal directly or indirectly with original was Joseph. You may say you ocall deal directly or indirectly with original was Joseph. You may say you ocall deal directly or indirectly with original was Joseph. You may say you ocall deal directly or indirectly with original was Joseph. You may say you ocall deal directly or indirectly with original was Joseph. You may say you ocall deal directly or indirectly with original was Joseph. You may say you ocall deal directly or indirectly with original was Joseph. You may say you ocall deal directly or indirectly with original was Joseph. You may say you ocall deal directly or indirectly with original was Joseph. You may say you ocall deal directly or indirectly with original was Joseph. You may say you ocall deal directly or indirectly with original was Joseph. You may say you ocall deal directly or indirectly with original was Joseph. ental teachings and directly with the life of Jesus translated into modern the of the infant through the carbinated into modern as was Joseph. Tou may say you occur ward Mary when he found out she was penter stood by his manger. Christ to become the mother of the infant was better fitted for his life work of the carbinate of the infant to become the mother of the infant was better fitted for his life work of ing to decide the eternal destiny of Let me explain to you this history

some immortal soul. It was the false more in detail. Joseph was an intense young shoulders to support. tumbled in and were slaughtered by thousands. It was a false guide that Now, when Mary was about to be- "Merry Christmases" sung out, come the mother of Christ all the peo- there will be one hand clasp you will

The protection and development of Christ during the days of his helpless.

The protection and development of Christ during the days of his helpless.

The protection and development of Christ during the days of his helpless. marital engagement and "put her away the best ways, although we may not infancy were provided for by Joseph's Mary was to become the mother of them that love God. Remember that love and care. Christ had to have care the Son of God, "for that which is con- Joseph the carpenter dead was as much during his infancy, just as any other ceived in her is of the Holy Spirit," at essential to Christ's filial service as newborn babe needs care. Christ's once this brave, noble carpenter be- Joseph the carpenter was when alive. childhood days were passed in much came her protector. He knew that he And so, my brother, when you look the same way that other children live would be despised for marrying her, at the different pictures commemorate out their earlier years. The baby Christ yet he hesitated not one instant. He live of the Nativity I do not want you came to the manger in order that the He had to be taught to creep and run his arm about her. He said: "Marry or the infant Christ, or the shepherds, words of the prophet might be fulfilled. and play. He had to be developed me, Mary, and slander shall not touch or the cattle, or the sheep, or the capital were looking for the expected days were to be so helpless, it was faced the cynical, sneering, scoffing, swarthy features of the noble mechanic necessary "for God to provide a protector for the helpless Mary and her tector for th infant child." Thus God chooses this strikes at her strikes at me!" Did fender from slander prenatal. He was go and look after my Son. You are to manly act than this of Joseph, who stand in my place and be to him an gave to this trembling girl the protecting the protection of the standard o tion of his name at the most sacred moment of her life? I am glad that the man who stood to

> that his boyhood was spent in a home Joseph's Great Work.
>
> Do you not glory in the fact that as
> Joseph, the humble carpenter, paved
> the way for Christ's advent, Joseph, the
> God, to have the example of a loving father and mother continually before humble carpenter, was the means of him during the years of his childhood, Christ's sustenance during the years of his childhood helplessness? I am glad that God has work for his great men to ing father and mother before them? The divine love is first revealed to a child through the Bible? Oh, no Joshua, and another for an Elijah, and another for a Paul, and another for a Luther, and an-John, and another for a Luther, and another for a Luther other for a Rowland Hill, and another Oh, no. It is first revealed by the genfor a Calvin, and another for a Wesley, tleness and kindness with which the for a John Bright and a Gladstone. I father of that child deals with the do not begrudge any of these men their prominent fields, but I am also glad lose your tempers before your children. that God has his humble places which Beware how you let selfishness creep into your hearts. Beware how you become jealous or fault finding. Before For sprains, bruises, burns, scalds of love which and similar injuries, there are the standard of love which

> > eyes and said, "Mary, thou art my be-

loved wife until death doth us part."

The Struggle For Bread. The Saviour's struggle for daily bread when he became a young man was also the result of Joseph's journey to the manger of Bethlehem of Judaea. When Joseph went to Bethlehem with Mary he seemed to say, "I will look after thee and the young child." But no longer look after Mary and Jesus. Death came in and took Joseph away Then Jesus had to step into Joseph's place and become the support of the rest of the family.

Now, of what did this family consist? Every Bible commentator who ever day? One of the most beautiful picpenned a description of Joseph makes tures ever painted is that called "The Carpenter Shop of Nazareth." There him out to be a middle aged or an the great Master opens the humble door elderly man at the time of his marriage for all the world to look in and see a to Mary. Some assert that not only beautiful family scene. On one side of was Joseph a middle aged man when the room sits a woman sewing. Her he married Mary, but that he had other eyes are cast down, but her face is a children. Personally I do not believe beautiful face-so pure, so gentle, so there is any objection to these two astruthful. Her fingers are busy. The sertions. Scripture itself seems to harheavy one to bear. "She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands fore he ordered a census to be taken. hands to the spindle, and her hands never speaks about Joseph after the All the people of Palestine had to an-hold the distaff." She is Mary, the scene in the temple, when Christ as a mother of Jesus. At her feet is a little boy is talking with the doctors. Jo-Judaea was a conquered province, the faxen haired child playing. The face seph was not with Mary at the wedding Roman law allowed itself to be bar- is that of a child, but as you gaze on of Cana of Galilee. He was not with monized with the Hebrew law. In those eyes and that wondrous face you Jesus during any of his tours. He was other words, it allowed the Hebrew people to be enrolled by families, as child—aye, a supernatural one. The literature of the child—aye, a supernatural one. The literature of the crucifixion. Therefore the Bible reader child—aye, a supernatural one. they had always been accustomed to the child, of course, is Jesus. The floor has a right to suppose that a short time do, instead of by districts. Thus all the chiral severed with shavings. The carpented descendants of David assembled at ter's implements are scattered around. the proper time in the Bethlehem vil- A strong, powerful limbed workman bas to go to work and take his foster lage, where their great ancestor was is bending over a workman's table join-And that was the reason Joseph, ing together two pieces of wood. This had to do as your elder brother did on the native of Nazareth, traveled all the Hebrew face is that of Joseph the carway from the north to be enrolled in Bethlehem at that particular time when for the infant Christ. "Ah," I said to had to do a man's work—aye, and more Jesus was born. Now, Mary would myself as I watched that picture, than a man's work. Jesus had to supnot have taken this journey had Joseph belonged to any other family than
some soul leaning on me as the infant

Christ by the forced toil and strug-

> must have been many a blister upon the hand from the almost ceaseless gripping of saw and plane and chisel, There must have been many a bleeding marital love was furnished by Joseph's finger and blackened thumb when the ther of Jesus, he gave him parental her eldest son were very sacred. Side care and must have received from that by side they must have struggled to loving nature a boy's gratitude. Still rear those children. Side by side they The Influence of a Good Man.

Thus the influence of a good man lves on after he has passed away. noble life of some dear one may have

you ever read of a more noble and Christ's caretaker in Bethlehem. He was part of Christ's existence in the tector in Nazareth. And as you watch the face of this noble carpenter may you be able to say, "O God, if it is Jesus in the relation of a father should not thy will to make me a Moses or a have been so noble a character and Joshua or a Caleb or a David or a Paul or a John, let me be a true and a faithful Joseph of Bethlehem, Joseph of Nazareth and Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born." Such at least is my desire when I look upon the rough face and the callous hands of Joseph the carpenter.

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